

BILBON

borrokan

aurrera!

The past years have seen an increase in the police harassment we have been suffering when carrying out any sort of political activity in our streets. Regardless of the particular activity (campaigns, demonstrations, etc.), more often than not our activists are harassed and/or fined, usually with the excuse of the draconian law known as the **Ley Mordaza**, passed in 2015 as a measure against political protest.

We in the Bilbao branches of **SORTU** have been very active in recent times. We have rejected the rise in energy prices by the corporation Iberdrola, we have mobilised in response to the death of the Basque political prisoner Igor González and demanded rights for all Basque political prisoners, we have protested against job insecurity and workplace accidents, as well as demanded large capital to take responsibility for the ongoing economic crisis, we have stood against fascism, against police torture... We have been active in consciousness-raising activity across the different neighbourhoods of Bilbao.

Last year's 28th of April, after a protest before the central building of Confebask (the Basque employer's association) at the Gran Via street, rejecting job insecurity and the increase of deadly accidents in the workplace, we have been receiving a serious wave of fines. These sum a total of €10,200 and affect 17 activists who took part in the protest. Many other activists have been fined for other cases (the total is over €16,000), have been hurt in police brutality incidents or are awaiting trial for cases related to protest or campaigning activities in different neighborhoods of Bilbao.

Considering the current situation, we want to show our full rejection of the repressive strategy being carried out by the PNV-dominated Basque Government and Bilbao's Town Hall, led by Juan María Aburto, also from the PNV. They are willing to use all means at their grasp: the Ertzaintza, the Municipal Police, special "cleaning" services which serve no other task than blatant political censorship... We can conclude that at this particular moment fines are some of their main weapons against political dissidents and to hamper grassroots political activity. Furthermore, all of these fines are justified under the legal cover provided by the Ley Mordaza, which the PNV has publicly and repeatedly rejected.

We in SORTU want to send a clear message: we will never renounce our right to carry out political activity in our streets. Particularly when we are all too conscious of how the main mass media systematically silence our activities. Despite all obstacles, we will continue spreading our demands, with the same strength and determination that we have always had.

In order to do so, and given the repressive strategy of the **PNV**, we announce the creation of a new tool for our political struggle: Borroka Itsulapikoa. A "resistance fund" which will face fines with activist solidarity. If they attempt to disrupt our activity with more fines, we will continue to respond with organisation and solidarity. **BILBON BORROKA AURRERA!**

We therefore call for donations to Borroka Itsulapikoa and especially to the spread of political demands through the streets of Bilbao.

Because the demands of the working people are deeply rooted in our streets, and that is the way it will continue to be.

SUPPORT those in the struggle!
BILBON BORROKAN AURRERA!

JAZARPENA ISUNAK ULE!
KAMERAK
Ley Mordaza
pikutara!